

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02
IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-07 /069 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9381
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1659

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR, US
SUBJECT: GOA PROTEST OF SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENT

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 1627, (B) BUENOS AIRES 1646,
(C) BUENOS AIRES 1651

1. I WAS SUMMONED TO THE FONOFFICE AT 10 A.M. MARCH 2
TO RECEIVE THE GOA PROTEST FORWARDED BY REF C. THE
FONMIN WAS GRAVE AND APPARENTLY DISTRESSED AT HAVING TO
PRESENT THIS PROTEST. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS FEELING
OF DEEP AFFRONT AND INCOMPREHENSION THAT THE USG SHOULD
SO BADLY MISUNDERSTAND A LOYAL FRIEND FIGHTING A
DETERMINED ENEMY.

2. IN VIEW OF THE PREVIOUS GOA REACTIONS TO THE
SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, THE FONMINISTRY COMMUNIQUE OF
FEB. 28 (REF A) AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S LETTER
(REF B), I CONSIDER THE NOTE OF PROTEST TO BE
RESTRAINED. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE ARGENTINES
COULD HAVE REINED IN THEIR EMOTIONAL REACTION
TO THE DEGREE REFLECTED IN THIS NOT WITHOUT SOME BITTER
DISCUSSIONS. AT THIS WRITING I INTERPRET THE MODERATE
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TONE OF THE NOTE TO BE A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE
GOA PLACES CONSIDERABLE VALUE ON GOOD RELATIONS
WITH THE USG.

3. THE OMISSION FROM THE NOTE OF ANY REFERENCE TO
THE FMS CREDIT, I BELIEVE, IS THE RESULT OF CAREFUL
DRAFTING. THE FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONED TO ME ON

FEB 28 THAT WHAT THE USG DOES WITH ITS BUDGET-
IS ITS OWN BUSINESS.

4. GIVEN THIS REPLY TO AN EVENT
WHICH DEEPLY OFFENDED AND HURT THIS GOVERNMENT,
I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARY TO
RECEIVE THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, WHO I UNDERSTAND
IS SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE.
IF SUCH AN APPOINTMENT IS POSSIBLE, ONE POINT WHICH
MERITS ATTENTION IS THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION
DID NOT CUT PROGRAMS FOR KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES.
THE ARGENTINES ARE BADLY HURT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
SINGLED OUT FOR SANCTIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE INSIGNIFICANT
IN THE USG'S NATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.
I ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD MAKE A GREAT DEAL OF
DIFFERENCE TO THIS GOVERNMENT IF THE USG
WOULD SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE ARGENTINE
SITUATION IS SPECIAL IN THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES
FACE AN ACTIVE TERRORIST PROBLEM.

5. OUR DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE GOA
REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT IS BEING
PREPARED. MEANWHILE I HOPE THAT THE
GOA HAS DECIDED AGAINST FURTHER ESCALATION
AND WILL EXERCISE A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON
THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY
OFFENDED BY THE US ACTION. WE WILL HAVE A BETTER
READING ON THIS SITUATION AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER
ISSUES THE STATEMENT ON DELIVERY OF THE NOTE
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WHICH THE FONMIN SAID WOULD BE FORTHCOMING TODAY.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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